Losses of Paradeep Phosphates Limited

3080. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Paradeep Phosphates Limited a public sector undertaking is heading for closure;

(b) if so, what are the accumulated losses suffered by PPL and what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to make the company economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The accumulated losses of PPL amounted to Rs. 125.02 crores upto 31st March, 1991. The losses were mainly due to poor capacity utilisation on account of inadequate availability of phosphoric acid and ammonia and industrial relation problems.

(c) With better availability of phosphoric acid, the Company's operations have already shown improvement during 1991-92, with a net profit of about Rs. 16.38 crores (provisional).

Reduction in fertiliser subsidy

3081. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have reduced fertiliser subsidy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the impact of reduction of fertiliser subsidy on the fertiliser industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) & (b) The consumer prices of controlled fertilizers were increased by 40 per cent on an average w.e.f. 25-7-1991, but the increase was reduced to 30 per cent on an average w.e.f. 14-8-1991. In addition, some low analysis fertilizers were decontrolled and a ceiling or subsidy payable per tonne of Single Superphosphate (SSP) was also imposed w.e.f. 25-7-1991. To this extent there has been reduction in fertilizer subsidy.

(c) Though fertilizer industry has not been adversely affected by increase in consumer prices, some high cost units might have been affected on account of decontrol of low analysis fertilizers and imposition of ceiling on subsidy payable per tonne of SSP.

खरीफ की फसल के लिए उर्वरकों की कमी

3082. **श्री अजीत जोगी :**
श्री छोटूभाई पटेल :

क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस वर्ष किन-किन राज्यों में खरीफ की फसल के लिये उर्वरक की कमी है ;

(ख) इसके क्या कारण हैं ;

(ग) ऐसे राज्यों को उर्वरक की पर्याप्त पूर्ति उपलब्ध कराने के लिये सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है ; और

(घ) यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिये कि सीमांत, छोटे और बड़े कृषकों को उर्वरकों पर दी जाने वाली राज सहायता का पर्याप्त लाभ मिले, सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाये हैं अथवा उठाने का विचार रखती है ?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री चिन्ता मोहन) : (क) से (ग) समग्र रूप से चालू खरीफ 1992 मौसम के दौरान देश में प्रमुख उर्वरकों की उपलब्धि संतोषजनक बनी हुई है । फर्टिलाइजर कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया के तालचर एकक में उत्पादन

हानि के कारण उड़ीसा में यूरिया की उपलब्धि थोड़ी प्रभावित हुई थी। तथापि, कमी को आयातों से पूरा किया जा रहा है।

सिंगल सुपर फास्फेट की उपलब्धि इस क्षेत्र में उत्पादन में बाधा के कारण प्रभावित हुई है। सिंगल सुपर फास्फेट की कम आपूर्ति के कारण प्रभावित राज्य सामान्यतः मध्य प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र, उड़ीसा, पश्चिम बंगाल और उत्तर प्रदेश हैं। प्रभावित राज्यों में फास्फेट की जरूरत को पूरा करने के लिये आयातित डी ए पी उर्वरकों की आपूर्तियां कर दी गयी हैं।

(घ) इस समय डाई अमोनियम फास्फेट, यूरिया, सिंगल सुपर फास्फेट, म्यूरिएट आफ पोटाश एवं काम्पलैक्सों की तरह के नियंत्रित उर्वरक सभी किसानों को रियायती दरों पर उपलब्ध कराये जा रहे हैं।

Nitric Acid Plant

3083. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RCF (Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizer) is operating Nitric Acid Plant without the catchment gauze resulting in enormous loss of platinum Rhodium running into crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for discontinuation of use of catchment gauze required for operation of Nitric Acid Plant; and

(d) whether any irregularity is observed in supply of catchment gauze and if so, the details thereof including action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (d) From 7th January, 1992, Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF) are not using the catchment gauze in its nitric acid plant of 750 tonnes per day capacity. RCF is taking necessary action to avoid loss in this regard.

The contract with the supplier of the catchment gauze has been terminated by RCF consequent upon certain irregularties, including production of allegedly false test reports regarding the quality and the metal content in the catchment guaze. The CBI has been requested to investigate the case.

Recoveries from M/s. Hoechst and Carews

3084. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large recoveries amounting to lakhs of rupees have to be made from M/s. Hoechst (India) Limited and M/s. Carews Co. into D.P.E.A.;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the accumulation of such a huge amount to be recovered from these companies;

(c) whether the timely payment were not made by M/s. Hoechst (India) Ltd. and M/s. Carews Co.;

(d) if so, what action has been taken against the company and the persons responsible for it; and

(e) what measures Government have taken or proposed to take to recover the amount from these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (e) The liability into Drugs Price Equilisation Account against M/s. Hoechst and M/s. Carews has been tentatively worked out to Rs. 77.81 and 7.10 crores (including overcharging during the currency of DPCO, 1987) respectively. The liability of M/s. Hoechst have been accrued due to over-charging of prices of bulk drugs and formulations fixed in 1980-81 under DPCO, 1979. The company went to Court and got stay against the prices fixed by Government. The Supreme Court give the decision in Government's favour in April/May, 1987. The tentative liability of M/s. Hoechst was assessed by special team as Rs. 4.58 crores